



Governor's 2006-07 Budget

The Administration is committed to ensuring that children have access to affordable health insurance coverage. Toward that end, the budget places priority attention on the approximately 428,000 children who are eligible for Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program (HFP), but are not enrolled.

The Governor's 2006-07 budget includes \$72.2 million (\$34.2 million General Fund) to reconstitute a more comprehensive strategy to identify, educate and enroll children eligible for public programs. Specifically, the budget proposes strategies to promote and maximize enrollment in Medi-Cal and HFP, improve the retention of children already enrolled and support county-based efforts to enroll eligible children in existing public programs. Taken together, these proposals will help California make significant progress toward covering the majority of eligible, but uninsured children in the state.

The Governor's budget proposes the following activities to encourage the enrollment of eligible children into Medi-Cal and HFP:

- Includes \$20.8 million (\$9.1 million General Fund) in allocations to counties for outreach and enrollment activities, which will build upon local efforts to reach underserved communities and enroll eligible, but uninsured children in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.
- Provides \$2.5 million (\$1.0 million General Fund) in incentive payments to encourage Certified Applicant Assistants (CAAs) to assist in the enrollment of more children in Medi-Cal and HFP. For the first time in two years, the 2005-06 budget provided funding for payments to assistants who help parents successfully complete applications in order to increase enrollment. The Governor's 2006-07 budget includes incentive payments to CAAs who increase their productivity from quarter to quarter, thereby encouraging CAAs to continually assist in the enrollment of more children.
- Includes \$3.4 million (\$1.4 million General Fund) to initiate a public education media campaign to promote awareness of Medi-Cal and HFP, emphasize the importance of health care coverage to a child's health and encourage parents to enroll their children.
- Provides \$45.5 million (\$22.7 million General Fund) for caseload growth as a result of simplifying the Medi-Cal re-determination form to decrease turnover within the program.